

The Herald of Freedom.

E. W. BROWN, Editor,
J. H. GREENE, Associate Editor.

Lawrence, Saturday, Mar. 8, 1856.

TERMS:
\$3.00 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

Editor at Topeka—Associate Editor.

The editor is at Topeka, where he will probably remain during the session of the Legislature, to report the proceedings of that body for the benefit of his readers. In the meantime the Associate Editor, who has been connected with the paper for some time past, will lend his aid in rendering the Herald of Freedom interesting to its patrons.

Gov. Robinson's Message.

Immediately upon receipt of the news from Topeka that the Governor had delivered his Message to the Legislature, we issued that document from the Herald of Freedom office in an Extra. It has been read by the people generally, and so far as we have observed, they are unanimous in ascribing to it a high meed of praise. Ordinarily, important State papers are the subjects of pretty sharp criticism, but Gov. Robinson's Message is a happy exception. It comes square up to what the people have been expecting; it is just such a message as we have all wanted to see from the first Governor of our new State, and is well calculated to inspire us with renewed strength in sustaining our cause through whatever struggles we may yet have to pass. It is terse and vigorous in style, remarkably comprehensive on the subjects of which it treats, liberal to an unusual degree, and cannot fail to receive the closest perusal and the highest encomiums from the press and people of the Anti-Slavery portions of the Union.

It is not our purpose to review it at length, minutely—every body, of course, will read it for themselves—but we cannot refrain from glancing cursorily at some of its most important features.

In the course of our experience we have noticed that New England men always talk early and forcibly about education—they have been used to living in a country where the people "build school houses and raise men," and it is their custom to carry this peculiar notion with them when they come West.—How the West has been affected thereby, we leave her greatness and prosperity to answer. Gov. Robinson, characteristically New Englandish, urges earnest attention to the subject of Education, and the establishment of a good Common School system; for "education of the people—common school education—is the palladium of our liberties. Without this, free institutions cannot exist; with it, tyranny and oppression must disappear."

We regard his position on the disposal of the public lands as correct. Heretofore, persons who have maintained the right of the human family to the ownership and occupancy of the soil "without money and without price," have battled for reform in the walks of private life; but now that Governors of States come out in favor of the Rights of man, we have hopes of a better time coming.—Give men a piece of land to make a living from, and you strengthen their attachment to society and increase the chances of their remaining good citizens tenfold. We would that legislators could get rid of the idea that Land Reform is visionary and impracticable. It is, of all reforms, eminently practicable and the most needed. One, perhaps the greatest, clog on the wheel of Western Progress, is Land Monopoly. Here in Kansas we are exceedingly gratified to see great numbers of small land-holders filling up the country in advance of the Speculators and Land Sharks.

The Governor's refutation of the charges Frank Pierce hatched up in his messages and proclamation is complete and overwhelming. It is a noble vindication of the course and policy of the trouble-enviored people of Kansas. Out of the mouths of Pro-Slavery men he condemns them. The practical workings of Squatter Sovereignty in favor of Freedom have not met the approval of the administration and its Southern advisers.—Squatter Sovereignty and Slavery, in their vocabulary, are synonymous terms. Northern Democrats who advocated that principle, took quite a different view of the matter. The people of Kansas accepted the conditions which that principle involved, when they left their old homes; they have all along demanded only "fair play and fair light," and now, after all their sufferings and indignities and oppression, they claim "squatter sovereignty" as a principle. We ask only that "the principles of popular sovereignty be obeyed." Although we have not been "left free to form our domestic institutions in our own way," yet if Congress will admit us into the Union, we will cry *Squatter Sovereignty* forever.

The subject of Temperance is earnestly recommended to the consideration of the Legislature. Also, the establishment of charitable institutions. The

Governor very briefly but effectively defends the New England Emigrant Aid Association from the impotent attacks of the President, who, by his resorting to abuse of corporations of private individuals, evinces no less the weakness of his cause than his own imbecility.

We have carefully read the Message, and give it our unqualified approval. It contains no syllable we can honestly object to, and we are glad of it; for we should as readily condemn a wrong in Governor Charles Robinson, the best and truest friend of the Kansas people, as we would in President Frank Pierce, their most implacable enemy.

The Effect.

The President's special message and proclamation concerning Kansas affairs, have apparently had a favorable effect on the pro-slavery party in Missouri and Kansas. We notice by the border papers that the character of the public meetings since the issuance of those documents has been somewhat on the conservative order. At Tecumseh, Kansas, on the 13th ult., a meeting was held by the few pro-slavery people who reside in that vicinity, at which speeches were made and resolutions passed very moderate in tone compared with the past, albeit eulogistic of the President.—Messrs. Byerly and Hoagland, both Northern men, the former from Philadelphia, Pa., who professed long ago to be a "squatter sovereignty" Democrat, yet united himself with the Border Ruffian party, the latter from Syracuse, N. Y., Gen. Strickler and others, were conspicuous in the meeting. We copy one of the resolutions:—

"Resolved, That we consider the present as a most auspicious time for the true patriots, bona fide settlers and conservative men of all classes to come to a perfect understanding and unite upon one Platform. The supremacy of the Laws—sovereignty of the People of the Territory, and Non-intervention with or from the people of the States."

"Better late than never." Gentlemen, you should have taken that stand two years ago; now you are "stealing our thunder." While you and your confederate soundrels in Missouri have ignored the Democratic rule of Popular sovereignty, and reckless of the consequences substituted the savage law of Might, the Free State party, embracing nine-tenths of the actual settlers, have adhered to that principle steadily—keeping it before them as their guide, and under its direction are now nearing the day of triumph. You espouse the cause of popular rule too late in the day. We haven't much faith in the honesty of your professions; but there is some hope if you prove true in the future. We will receive you "on suspicion" for a short time.

"Douglas County" Scrip.

From the time of Esop's donkey to the present, imitation has been the order of the day. The officials of "Douglas County" appointed by the bogus Legislature, seeing how readily the people's State Scrip was used as a "circulating medium," straightway laid their schemes together to produce a "County Scrip." How well they succeeded the reader can judge from the following:

"No.—Lecompton City, K. T. \$— This is to certify that —, or bearer, is entitled to receive on demand from the Treasurer of Douglas County, — dollars, with interest at six per cent. per annum, payable — year— from date, for which the faith of the County is pledged. By order of the Board of County Commissioners, Pres't Board. Attest, — Clerk."

The motto is: "The principles of squatter sovereignty must be obeyed.—President Pierce." We imagine if people take this stuff relying on the pledged faith of the county of Douglas for its redemption, they will have a flimsy paymaster. None but Missourians will be gulled into its purchase, and as most of them are unable to read they won't know the difference between it and paper money.—It will answer very well for cigar-lighters!

Confirmed.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Winson Sharkey as Governor of Kansas, but twelve votes being against him. We shall welcome his return with great pleasure to our State. It is reported that he designs settling on a claim. It is possible he intends following the occupation he pursued in California, to wit—driving ox team. He is well qualified for the pursuit, and will find it a thousand times more creditable than attempting to enslave a free people.

Members in Attendance.

A large number of the members of the Legislature were in attendance at Topeka at the opening of the session; a greater proportion to the whole number than is usual on such occasions in similar assemblies. This shows the popularity of the movement, and the desire of the people to have a code of laws for their government of their own enacting.

Improving.

Topeka has grown rapidly since our last visit there. Several fine buildings have been added to the town, and the indications of thrift are observable on every hand. Success to her enterprising spirit.

Beautiful Sentiment.

In "Sears' Scenes and Sketches on the Continent," page 298, speaking of Rome, the author remarks:—
"The Romans experienced what all nations will feel, that, in forging chains for others, they make rivets for their own necks; that those who enslave to day, are on the road to be enslaved to-morrow; that the spoils of unjust aggression, and the gains wrung from a vanquished but once free people, are like clothes stolen from the back of a man who has died of the plague, which carry a curse and death to the fool who puts them on."

What can be more beautiful, or more expressive of the condition of things existing between the people of Kansas and the slavery propagandists of Missouri? Every effort of theirs for our subjugation has recoiled upon them, and, if persisted in, will roll back upon Missouri and crush out the institution which has been at the foot of all their inroads upon Kansas. It is a natural consequence that such a result will follow their aggressions. Would it not be wise in them to take counsel from experience, and change their policy at once? Wisdom would dictate it!

A Noble Letter.

The editors of the Chicago Tribune write us from that city, under date of Feb. 15th, from which we make the following extracts:—

CHICAGO, Feb. 15, 1856.

ED. HERALD OF FREEDOM:—There is about \$2,000 subscribed to help the free State cause, which is placed in the hands of an Executive Committee, to be checked on by your Committee of Public Safety, and other proper persons, not to purchase scrip but to pay for munitions, necessities, &c., for the assistance of the free State cause. We shall raise considerable more means, and when the spring opens you may look for a large number of emigrants who will handle an axe or Sharp's rifle, as occasion may require.

The whole Western States are profoundly moved with indignation at the wrongs your people have sustained.— Assistance will pour in next spring in abundance. "Though the Heavens fall, or the Union be rent in twain, Kansas shall not be cursed with slavery," is the voice of the North. Be of good cheer, and prove faithful to the end. Your reward will surely come. Several of your people are with us, going from town to town as missionaries in a holy cause.— They are doing great good.

The Republicans have secured the organization of the House at Washington. Good will come of it. Very truly yours, EDS. TRIBUNE.

Meeting at Leavenworth City.

We refer our readers to the proceedings of a public meeting held in Leavenworth city on the 23d inst., published in another column, for the purpose of calling the attention of Kansas business men to the advantages of making their purchases at that point, laying out roads, &c. We have heretofore spoken favorably of such a movement, and reiterate our preference for Leavenworth over any town in Missouri.

After we shall have been admitted into the Union as a Free State, and got rid of this harassing slavery question, all parties of Kansas will unite in earnest and vigorous endeavors to push forward the work of improvement, and the encouragement of home interests. In all matters where the prosperity and progress of the State, or any sections thereof, are concerned, we are with you, gentlemen, without regard to political opinions.

The Temperance Movement.

In progressing in this city in the right direction, and grows in popular favor every day. The meetings have been numerous attended, and an unusual degree of interest evinced. The preliminary steps toward the formation of a Society have been taken, nearly everybody in town has signed the pledge, and it only remains for those particularly interested to go ahead with the work of breaking up the rum-sellers' business.— The ladies have entered into the movement with their usual energy and spirit which will insure complete success.

A Great Blunder.

In an article last week on the redemption of State Scrip, we were made to say, through a blunder of the types, "that G. W. & W. Hutchinson & Co., were authorized to receive \$15,000 at par, &c.," when we had only intended to say *fifteen hundred* dollars. There is some difference between 1,500 and 15,000!

Correction.

A little article from the Springfield, Mass., Republican, headed "The last victim to Law and Order in Kansas," which we published last week, contained an important error. The Mr. Brown therein referred to is not the man who was so inhumanly murdered at Easton, a few weeks ago, but is an entirely different person, who, so far from being dead, is now living in this State, and an active Free State man. With the Republican please correct!

Our Friends' Spirit & Bess.

The Kansas Tribune, will issue a Daily paper during the session of the Legislature. Terms, 20 cents per week.

We get no mails through Missouri. We do not pretend to make any summer, as in the way of winter. For a fortnight we have had no mail east of Westport.

Legislative Proceedings.

Kansas Legislature.

Topeka, March 8, '56.

SENATE.—Hon. V. V. Roberts, Lieutenant Governor, took the Speaker's chair, and the Senate was fully organized by the election of the following officers:—

Chief Clerk, Joseph Allen, of Topeka; Assistant Clerk, Wm. H. Grignon, of Topeka; Sergeant-at-Arms, J. M. Fuller, of Lawrence; Assistant do., Harris Stratton, of Topeka; Doorkeeper, A. Martin; Assistant do., John Mack of Lawrence; Messenger, Jesse Smith, of Topeka; Assistant do., Ferdinand Wenden, of Topeka; 1st Transcribing Clerk, J. P. Cummings, of Topeka; 2d do., J. C. Dunn, of do.; Chaplain, Rev. Paul Shepherd.

In assuming the duties of Speaker, Col. Roberts said:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF KANSAS.—In assuming the position to which I have been called by the people of Kansas, I should do injustice to my feelings should I not express thro' you to the people my gratitude for the honor that they have conferred, and pledge my best efforts to merit the confidence they have reposed in me; and also to bespeak your forbearance and their charity for such efforts as you and they may detect in the discharge of the duties devolving upon me.

Without your co-operation I should despair of success; but with every confidence in your determination to discharge your duties faithfully, and with a fixed intention on my part to preside over your deliberations with impartiality and fidelity to the best of my ability, I must be allowed to anticipate a session fruitful of good to the people of Kansas.

The circumstances under which we have assembled; and under which our State organization has been formed, are such as demand of us the most careful consideration of every measure of public policy upon which we may be called to act.

The eyes of the people of Kansas are upon us; the eyes of the people of the American Union are upon us. Let our deliberations be characterized by a fixed determination to maintain the right, and so to deport ourselves as to demand the respect and challenge the scrutiny of mankind.

Our Infant Republic is this day born of the popular will; our edifice is founded upon the true basis of popular sovereignty; and if we are true to our interests, our success, under the smiles of Divine Providence, is secured.

HON. GEN. J. H. LANE, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, called the House to order, which was organized by the election of the following officers:—

Speaker, T. Minard; Clerk, J. K. Goodin; Transcribing Clerk, J. Snodgrass; Assistant, G. T. Gordon; Sergeant-at-Arms, J. Mitchell; As't J. Swain; Doorkeeper, J. Branson; As't L. Farnsworth; Chaplain, Rev. Lovejoy; Messenger, J. M. Speer; As't D. Seagraves.

Hon. T. Minard, in assuming the duties of Speaker, said:—

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:—

I assume the office of Speaker of this House with great diffidence and a distrust of my own abilities to discharge its duties, which nothing but my confidence in your sympathy and hearty co-operation could impel me to attempt. We are surrounded by circumstances in some degree unprecedented in the history of State organization; demanding calm deliberation, prudent forbearance, and at the same time a firm determination to pursue the right, doing nothing but justice, and submitting to nothing wrong, let the consequences be what they may. I shall endeavor to preside over your deliberations with impartiality and fidelity, and shall anticipate as the result of your action, the passage of wise laws, and the establishment of enlightened and liberal institutions.

Both branches having convened in the Hall of the House, the oath of office was administered to the several State officers by the President of the Senate.

Gov. Robinson, on his induction into office, said:—

Fellow Citizens of the General Assembly:—

On taking the oath of office, and assuming the duties of the Executive of the State of Kansas, I word from me may not be improper. It has pleased the people of Kansas to call us from our accustomed duties, to discharge high and important trusts. In our keeping, for a brief period, is placed the Legislative and Executive power of the new State. To us the people look for wise and wholesome laws, and the faithful administration of the Government on the true principles of Republicanism and "Squatter Sovereignty."

In the execution of this trust, it will be my pleasure, no less than my duty, to co-operate with you in all measures for the good of the people.

Our position is peculiar. Although the people of Kansas have followed precedents set them by other new States, and sanctioned by Congress, and the proceedings in the formation of a State Government are all regular, yet, for the first time in the history of our country, the President and his appointees characterize the movement as reasonable. This was not to be expected from the advocates of the Kansas-Nebraska act, which professes to leave the people of the Territory "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions in their own way, subject only to the Constitution of the United States." Some of the people of an adjoining State unite with the President in opposing the people of Kansas in forming and regulating their own government, and threaten our destruction if we do not conform to their dictation. Should the same indications be manifested by the people of another State be persuaded in, and our rights again trampled in the dust, by official interference or lawless invasion, the people of Kansas would be justified before the world in asserting their rights by revolution; but since it is believed that Congress will grant to us the same rights and immunities that it has granted to other States—the people of Missouri and the Federal Executive to the contrary notwithstanding—it is better to suffer "while evils are sufferable, than attempt to right ourselves by a hasty resort to extreme measures."

Our course as a people, thus far, has been distinguished for forbearance, long-suffering, and patience; and good policy would still dictate that every honorable effort be made to establish and cultivate friendly relations with our oppressors, especially with the people of our adjoining sister State.

Nothing should be done in a spirit of retaliation, but rather of conciliation. Although our own rights have been repeatedly invaded and wrested from us, let us show that we respect the constitution and laws of our land, and the rights of the people of the respective States; that, until forbearance ceases to be virtue, and becomes cowardice and oppression because insufferable, we will ever be found loyal citizens of the Government.

Important questions will come before you for consideration, and it cannot be expected that perfect unanimity will prevail upon any subject, yet it is desirable and necessary, with the various elements in a Legislature of a new State, that a spirit of co-operation and harmony should characterize the members, that the enactments may carry with them a moral force that will cause them to be respected by the People.

The position allotted us by the partiality of our fellow-citizens is one of great responsibility, and we need that wisdom which comes from above, to so direct us that we may render a good account of our actions to our constituents and posterity.

Both Houses adjourned to 9 o'clock, A. M., to-morrow.

Public Meeting.

LEAVENWORTH CITY, Feb. 23, '56.

At a large and respectable meeting of the business men of this city, held this evening at the Mayor's office, Mr. L. N. Rees was called to the chair, and C. T. Harrison chosen secretary. The chairman stated that the object of this meeting was to appoint a delegation of merchants of this city, to wait on the business men of Lawrence, Leavenworth, Tecumseh, Topeka, and other towns along the Kansas river and interior of the Territory to represent to them the advantages this city has over any other on the Missouri River for a commercial intercourse with the whole Territory.

On motion of Mr. S. J. Anthony, a delegation of seventeen were appointed to wait on the business men of the abovenamed towns, and ask their co-operation in making roads from this city to the abovenamed points, when the following gentlemen were chosen:—

Wm. E. Murphy, Mayor; J. J. Clarkson, Dr. G. J. Park, J. W. Skinner, Mr. Isaac Hall, Mr. C. F. Currier, Dr. J. H. Day, Mr. S. J. Anthony, Mr. L. N. Rees, Chas. T. Harrison, Mr. N. McCracken, Mr. W. P. Marvin, Mr. A. Fisher, Wm. Engleman, Jeremiah Clark, Geo. Keller and John J. Benz.

On motion of Mr. C. F. Currier, an invitation be extended to such citizens as wish to co-operate with us.

On motion of Mr. Hall, a committee of five was appointed to draft resolutions, when the following gentlemen were chosen:—

Hon. Wm. E. Murphy, Doctor J. H. Day, Messrs. Hall, Fisher and Currier, who reported the following:—

WHEREAS, the city of Leavenworth is the great commercial emporium of the Territory, the most eligible point on the Missouri river for the trade of the Kansas river at Lawrence and other towns on said river; and whereas, the country west of our city is the most fertile and the richest of any part of the Territory, and that we look upon the business of the Kansas river country as already large and constantly increasing, and that the business community of our city are well prepared to furnish any supplies or any facilities for business purposes whatever:

1st. Resolved, That we will co-operate with any of the inhabitants on said river, and any citizens of said towns on the same, in laying out any roads that shall be considered favorable to all interested.

2d. Resolved, That we consider it of vital interest to the citizens of this city and vicinity, and of the utmost importance to the settlers on Kansas river, that they be respectfully invited to make our place their point of trade.

3d. Resolved, That Leavenworth City being the nearest accessible point on the Missouri river, in the Territory, and possessing superior commercial advantages for the inhabitants on the Kansas river, and other interior towns, we feel assured that we can make it our mutual benefit to secure said business intercourse.

A subscription list was drawn up to aid in building a road from this city to Lawrence. Messrs. Marvin, Anthony, and Harrison were appointed to solicit subscription and C. T. Harrison to act as Treasurer.

On motion of Mr. A. Fisher 200 copies of the proceedings of this meeting were ordered to be printed in circular form. Messrs. Park, Currier and Harrison were chosen as printing committee.

On motion of Mr. C. F. Currier the proceedings were ordered to be published in the Kansas Herald, the Lawrence and Topeka papers, and all other papers in the Territory, and such papers in the States as may feel friendly to the cause.

On motion of Mr. Hall, the meeting adjourned to meet on Tuesday next at the Mayor's office. L. N. REES, Chrmn. CHAS. T. HARRISON, Sec'y.

It is reported that immense damage has been done to the steamboats at St. Louis in consequence of the breaking up of the ice in the river. Several boats were sunk, and others were crushed to pieces. Cincinnati, Louisville, and other places on the rivers have been heavy sufferers.

Original Correspondence.

For the Herald of Freedom.

Legislators, Read and Ponder.

TOWNSHEND, VT., Feb. 7, '56.

DEAR HERALD OF FREEDOM:—You cannot know how anxious I am to hear from and about all Kansas. I would have written you before, but I have hardly recovered my strength and health sufficiently to be "moved by the spirit" to make any communications. The winter thus far has been cold beyond all former experience, and even as January, so February threatens to withhold the accustomed "thaw." But if the weather is cold, not so the free hearts that are anxiously watching Kansas affairs, and swelling with ominous indignation towards the perpetrators of the dark deeds—weekly chronicled—of the Missourians and their government aiders and abettors.

The query is often put here, "What will be the effect of the President's Kansas Message on the peace of the Territory? Will it not incite to more frequent and aggravated outrages on your defenceless population?"

What will the facts, in your knowledge, reply to these queries? I hope the attitude of the President will not discourage the Free State population. Let them read the hand-writing on the wall of the White House, and take courage. "Whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad," and surely the pro-slavery party in the Union is madly rushing on to its own destruction. Where there were tens of thousands two years ago to counsel forbearance and excuse their position, now there is not one! No; I have not been able to find one, or to hear of one solitary advocate in all this region of country. If such an one could be found, he would not be regarded as worth a rebuke. All are anxiously looking for a crisis in the coming spring; with what reason, time will reveal. I am impatient, in my present necessary absence from home.

My home is in Kansas, and come weal or come woe, there is a tie to her soil and her struggling people which I cannot undo, and would not if I could.

I have not seen a number of the Herald since I left, and had not received the number containing my last communication, which, if you have, I beg you to forward; also the other back numbers. From what I have heard, I suppose you have elected your regularly nominated ticket for State officers. I think Kansas is fortunate in having so many able and firm men to represent her interests in a home Legislature, and if there should be any scrambling for offices in such trying times as are upon her, Kansas may well glory in her aspirants for martyrdom.

Her "strong-minded" women will be content to run bullets, transfer ammunition, and inspire their husbands and sons with hope, faith and courage, until public offices of honor and trust are redolent of domestic peace and quiet before they ask a share in their responsibilities. Yes, woman, self-denying now as in the past, is forgetting herself and her wrongs in the great national wrong that threatens to deprive the manhood of the nation of the right and the power to protect the altars and the hearths consecrated to God and humanity. But it seems to me that the darkness which precedes the dawn is already broken by the reflected light of the glorious sun of Freedom, the dark shadows that envelope the beautiful prairies of Kansas being the veil that rent in twain, shall assure the crucified humanity of our country of a most glorious rising.

In my journey East, I was not a little amused to notice the unconcealed surprise and indignation of several pro-slavery Southerners, when, in the course of conversation on Kansas matters, I mentioned the intention of the residents from the South and contiguous States, to exclude free blacks. And, from my observation and the train of consequences that must be apparent to any reflecting mind, I am convinced that such a restriction will make the opposition to a Free State tenfold more fierce. The leaders of the opposition understand this, though the mob which fights and runs in their service are not readers, and lack the information which is broadcast among the same class of persons in the Free States.

Said a South Carolinian to me: "What is to become of us when, in the course of time, our slaves shall have increased so as to crowd us on our own soil, if the Free States shut their doors against black emigration—what, in God's name, are we to do?" "In God's name, sir, you are bound to provide against such an exigency by immediate and unconditional restoration of the rights of the blacks. They are not to blame for being where they are or what they are, and those who have taken the responsibility, are in duty bound, as they will in the course of events be compelled, to meet the consequences. I wash my hands of it, and hope to see you do the best, as it will be the right thing before too late."

Feb. 12th.—Since writing the above, I learn that your State ticket is elected, and Dr. Robinson is to preside over the new State. It is well! I believe Kansas has a score of men qualified to preside over any of the old States, and more than fitted to the times that are trying the souls of her people. But if I were allowed to vote, I would esteem myself most happy to have aided in the election of one of these—a man without a superior in the qualifications absolutely requisite in the initiating of the new State. But the amiable Doctor [of arms] has a most diabolical reputation among the Missourians, so that when he deems it expedient to be amiable with them, they regard him only as "transforming himself into an angel of light," and all the more dangerous. Sharp's Rifles and the good Doctor are great annoyances to the "Border Ruffians."

Alas, that I cannot get back in time to be at the organization of this Legislature!

C. I. H. NICHOLS.

Letter from J. S. Emery, Esq.

BURLINGTON, Iowa, 11th Feb. 1856.

To the Executive Committee and the Committee of Public Safety of Kansas.—Gent.—This evening I have addressed the people of this city in mass meeting assembled, at which his Excellency Gov. Grimes presided. I was alone, as Judge Smith is at Peoria. The largest hall in town was filled. Resolutions endorsing the position of the Free State men of Kansas, and instructing their representatives in Congress to vote for our admission at once into the Union, were unanimously adopted. Also, a resolution pledging themselves to raise \$2,000 for the defence of Kansas against foreign invasions was passed. Governor Grimes made some pertinent remarks. Although not that degree of enthusiasm prevails in Burlington as in Quincy, the Kansas question is, sharing a large amount of public opinion. Iowa will do her whole duty to prevent the bona fide settlers of Kansas being trampled under foot by non-residents. Very respectfully, J. S. EMERY.

ture! I find myself asking of vacancy a thousand questions touching the character of the legislation which is to consecrate the virgin, nay, the savage soil of Kansas, to a progressive civilization.

It is a legitimate subject of inquiry—what new rounds will Kansas add to the ladder of Freedom? For each new State has taken some step in advance of its predecessors, rejected some legal barbarism, some remnant of feudalism still inwrought in the policy of older States. What new pledges of humanity shall eternal justice win from the Legislators of Kansas? That Kansas will legislate with the intent to protect her "white male citizens in the enjoyment of equal rights, is a conceded point. She cannot do less than this. But the black males and white females, what will she do for them? The latter will be allowed to live in the State because—happy circumstance—the free "white males" can't get along comfortably without them! But will the area of their freedom be extended? The adopted constitution ignores their political rights; will the Legislature recognize their equal, legal rights? Will it copy the laws of the Eastern States, or the more generous provisions of the Illinois and the Missouri code for married women and widows? Will they imitate the laws of Kentucky and Canada and allow women (the educators of the race), to vote in district school meetings? Or will they continue to tax widows and single women, yet deny them the right of representation, even matters admitted to be in "woman's sphere"? Will our Kansas Legislature learn from Iowa, and restore to the mothers of the State their joint rights of guardianship, giving the mother equally with the father the control of the child during their joint lives, and in the event of his death, recognizing her as guardian during its minority? I hope the warm-hearted, honest yeomanry among our Legislators will see to this themselves, for if the lawyers fix up the matter, they may think the prospect for business in the settlement of estates fairer, if they compel the widowed mother—as in all the States except Iowa—to pay the court fee for the privilege of being appointed guardian over her own children. The widows and children, in the present arrangement of settling estates by law, when the fathers die, are taxed and robbed in the shape of fees for commissioners, administrators and judges' services. But the time is coming when this whole system of legal espionage will be abolished; when community will deem it unnecessary and outrageous to send men into the desolated home of the widow to overhaul and appraise her household goods, divide up the resources, discontinue the business, and thus break up the family, often compelling the broken-hearted mother to "put out" her little ones from under her own care, and turning herself out to service or the poor house. I repeat, the time will come when community will deem such a course as suicidal to the interests of the family and community, as if applied in the case of the mother's estate. Let the widowed fathers to prosecute the business, meet the debts, and keep their children under their own hearing, and let the action of probate courts be confined to the settlement of such estates and such only as have no capable surviving partner, in case such partner desires the aid of legal advisers. If injustice obtains, let the courts decide, as in other cases. Is this asking too much for women, on whom the greater responsibility in the care and training of their children is admitted to rest? If they are the weaker sex physically, why do Legislators cut them off with less means for support, when death severs the union? The surviving husband, the stronger man, must retain his home and all the property when the mother dies, in order "to keep the family together!" But the mother, whose influence and training are deemed so necessary for the children, and to prepare them for Statesmen, Presidents, Governors, Judges; Fathers of struggling Kansas! I ask you not to do by woman as she has been done by in the legislation of other States—I ask you not to protect children as they are protected in other and old States, but I entreat you to legislate for the mothers, legislate for your wives as you legislate for yourselves. Make them your companions, your equal in legal rights, that in case you die first, your children may still nestle in a mother's arms, be restrained by the loving authority of a mother, and never fail of a protector by reason of the legal inability of their most disinterested parent and friend.

But I did not intend to dwell so long on this point when I commenced. Its importance must be my excuse; if it will not suffice, let me add I am a mother, and in the past have found my own hands tied by the law which denies the right of guardianship over her first children to the mother married again.

With a heart painfully alive to the safety and honor of our noble State, that is to be, I remain truly yours, &c.

C. I. H. NICHOLS.

Letter from J. S. Emery, Esq.

BURLINGTON, Iowa, 11th Feb. 1856.

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Alas, that I cannot get back in time to be at the organization of this Legislature!

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